

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

December 22, 2006



Merry Christmas!



A Holiday Message From County Executive Walker

The first big snowfall of the year and the chilly temperatures have certainly put us all in the holiday spirit. The Christmas tree in the courthouse is beautifully decorated, thanks to the employees' children who participated in our decorating party. Downtown, the parks are lit with holiday lights. The ice rink at Red Arrow Park is once again open for the season. Skating is free at the rink and skate rentals are only \$5.00. Many county parks have sledding hills and some even have warming huts. The Mitchell Park Domes have their holiday display and free musical performances through New Year's Day. The Milwaukee County Zoo is ablaze with their Holiday Lights show, featuring fun for the whole family.

This was another busy year for Milwaukee County. The US Bank Championship was again held at Brown Deer Park and was a huge success. Veteran's Park was the host of the Milwaukee Air Expo, and of course, hundreds of thousands of people enjoyed the many ethnic and music festivals that make summer in Milwaukee County so special. The Milwaukee County Zoo was once again the site of Operation Freedom in July. More than 17,000 active and retired military personnel and their families gathered to enjoy a day of food, fun, and fellowship.

Milwaukee County currently has 11 employees deployed in our armed forces. I am extremely proud of these fine individuals. I would ask everyone to keep those employees, their families and all the military in our thoughts and prayers this season.

This year also saw some significant economic developments in the county. A number of parcels in the Park East area have been approved for development and a new hotel is being built in the Milwaukee County Research Park. The Milwaukee 7 regional marketing strategy is moving forward with the launch of its new website: www.choosemilwaukee.com. Now, the seven-county greater Milwaukee region is being marketed as one entity, putting a new face on the greater Milwaukee area.

The courthouse also presents a new and improved face with the demolition of the old courthouse annex parking structure. Travelers on I-43 now can enjoy the architecture of this great building.

Finally, during these holiday times, it is important to look beyond the hustle and bustle of shopping and gift giving and appreciate those who make the holiday special – family and friends. I ask you to take time to donate some of your time or your money to help someone less fortunate this season. A gesture of kindness will linger throughout the season.

God Bless you all and Merry Christmas!

Happy Chanukah!



Scott Walker with Rabbi Schmotkin and his son

Last Friday, County Executive Scott Walker was joined by Rabbi Shmotkin in the courthouse rotunda for the lighting of the first lamp in the county's menorah. Rabbi Shmotkin said the menorah is an important symbol as it embodies our nation's fundamental belief in the right of every citizen to practice his or her religion free from restraint or persecution. Happy Chanukah!

Walker Hosts Military Families At Christmas Party

In what has become an annual tradition, County Executive Scott Walker hosted a Christmas party at the courthouse for family members of county employees currently serving in the military. The party, which took place Wednesday, featured food, drink, and gifts donated by area organizations and by employees.

Walker Greeters Shoppers at Parks Booths



This week, County Executive Walker spent some time at the Parks Department kiosks at Mayfair Mall and Southridge Mall. He met a lot of shoppers and helped promote the golf packages, golf gift cards, Cool Waters passes and greeting cards that the Parks Department is selling at these successful booths.

Walker Joins Salvation Army Bell Ringers At Bayshore



On Thursday, County Executive Walker worked as a bell ringer for the Salvation Army at Bayshore Town Center. The Salvation Army has set a goal of \$2.6 million for its 2006 Christmas campaign. Look for the Red Kettles and give.